

## Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 AID-05 /067 W

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R 011647Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 888

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, SOC

SUBJECT: CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY SITUATION

REF: SANTIAGO 6605

1. SUMMARY. CATHOLIC UNIV PRO-RECTOR JAIME DEL VALLE, A PARTISAN OF RECTOR-DELEGATE JORGE SWETT, TOLD CAO OCT 30 THAT SWETT IS MUCH CONCERNED OVER FUSS STIRRED UP BY RAUL CARDINAL SILVA (REFTEL), BUT IS SECURE IN HIS POSITION. RECTOR BELIEVES HE IS OBSERVING UNIVERSITY STATUTES, DEFENDING CHURCH INTERESTS, AND FOLLOWING GOC ORDERS TO KEEP TIGHT CONTROL OVER UNIVERSITY. DEL VALLE BELIEVES GOC HAS NO INTENTION OF RETURNING UNIVERSITY TO CHURCH CONTROL IN FORE-SEEABLE FUTURE. DISPUTE NOW APPEARS TO HAVE PASSED FROM RECTOR-CARDINAL TO RECTOR-VATICAN. END SUMMARY.

2. DEL VALLE SAID SWETT IS OBSERVING UNIVERSITY STATUTES IN BOTH LETTER AND SPIRIT IN INSISTING ON HIS PREROGATIVE TO APPOINT AND REMOVE SENIOR UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES. SWETT IS UPSET ABOUT FUSS KICKED UP BY CARDINAL BUT HAS BEEN ASSURED THAT BOTH GOC AND SOLID MAJORITY OF CHILEAN CHURCH HIERARCHY SIDE WITH HIM IN MATTER OF NAMING PERSONNEL DIRECTOR DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO HIM. DEL VALLE DID NOT INDICATE BASIS OF SWETT'S

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ASSURANCE HIERARCHY IS WITH HIM.

3. ACCORDING TO DEL VALLE, CHIEF OF STATE GENERAL PINOCHET RECENTLY TOLD SWETT HE BACKED HIM IN CURRENT DISPUTE AND THAT GOC HAS NO INTENTION OF RETURNING CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY TO CHURCH CONTROL IN MARCH 1975 OR IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HE NOTED THAT PINOCHET IN OCT 28 SPEECH SAID GOC CONTROL OVER ALL UNIVERSITIES WOULD BE "NECESSARILY PROLONGED."

4. DEL VALLE NOTED THAT CARDINAL IS NOW IN ROME AND SAID SWETT BELIEVES VATICAN MAY CALL HIM THERE TO EXPLAIN MATTERS.

5. COMMENT. FROM DEL VALLE AND OTHER SOURCES, APPEARS NOW THERE WAS NO AGREEMENT TO TURN UNIVERSITY BACK TO CHURCH IN MARCH 1975, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN DISCUSSION ABOUT SUCH RETURN.

6. AS INTERPRETED BY DEL VALLE, SWETT SEEMS INGENUOUS IN BELIEVING HE INTERPRETS CHURCH'S INTERESTS BETTER THAN CARDINAL DOES, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT GOC WANTS TO KEEP TIGHT REIN ON UNIVERSITIES. ASIDE FROM WHETHER SWETT OR CARDINAL HAS MORE BACKING OVER ISSUE FROM CHURCH HIERARCHY, CARDINAL CAN ALSO LOOK TO ROME. STATEMENT OF PAPEL NUNCIO THAT CARDINAL'S "MOMENTARY SUSPENSION" AS GRAND CHANCELLOR OF UNIVERSITY DOES NOT MEAN END OF CHURCH-UNIVERSITY RELATIONSHIP (PARA 1, REFTEL), INDICATES THAT SWETT IS NOW DEALING WITH VATICAN, AND CARDINAL GOT THERE BEFORE HIM.  
POPPER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Subject:** ATHOLIC UNIVERSITY SITUATION  
**TAGS:** PINT, SOCI, SEDU, CI, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY, (DEL VALLE, JAIME), (SILVA, RAUL), (SWETT, JORGE)  
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